

to small businesses, such as the need to access capital, regulatory reform, and pro-growth tax policies.

The recommendations of Mr. Rubenstein and his fellow delegates at the conference will serve as the basis for important new legislation which will be considered by the Congress and the President. Sandy Rubenstein's selfless work in making the 1995 White House Conference on Small Business should be recognized and commended.

COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 1995

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate J.P. Griffin, Inc. and Griffin Service Corp. on the occasion of their 50th anniversary in business.

Their story is a vivid illustration of the promise of opportunity which is inherent to freedom. It began with a handshake. That's when Lester Olson became a one-third partner in J.P. Griffin, Inc., an appliance repair company he had joined a year earlier when the firm was launched. Leaving a secure position with a shipyard where he made \$840 per month, he began his new job making the grand sum of \$30 per week. But Lester and his wife Yelive knew how to combine opportunity with hard work and sacrifice.

As the company took on more and more jobs involving the installation of commercial refrigerated display cases and walk-in coolers, it became a natural transition to move into work with refrigerated shipping vessels, and finally, air conditioning.

By the early 1950's, Floridians were turning off their fans, closing their windows, and installing central air conditioning in their homes and businesses. J.P. Griffin, Inc. was one of the leaders during this breakthrough period.

In the early 1960's, the service department was separated from the construction department, and Griffin Service Corp. was set up under the management of Ted Wade. Today, Bryan Lingerfelt manages Griffin, Inc., just as his father did for over 20 years.

No history of the development of modern Tampa would be complete without mentioning the impact of companies like J.P. Griffin, Inc. and the Griffin Service Corp. Equally as important, their community contributions have been significant throughout the years.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Griffin Inc. and Griffin Service for 50 years of excellence.

SUPPORT HUMANE TREATMENT OF HORSES

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 1995

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Safe Commercial Transportation of Horses for Slaughter Act of 1995." This legislation would improve the handling care and equipment requirement for the safe

transportation of horses for slaughter. Similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate.

Last year, I was stunned by an article in *Equidae*, the National Horseman's Inc., publication, that exposed the inhumane treatment of horses transported for slaughter. Imagine injured, pregnant, and ill horses crammed into cattle cars with combative stallions and other horses to be shipped on long journeys to slaughterhouses with no dividers separating them. For those of you who are not horse enthusiasts, it's like putting a fox in a hen house. As a thoroughbred owner, I find this appalling. Many including myself, consider horses to be a part of their families like a dog or cat. Can you imagine this treatment to Fido or Fluffy? I think not.

I recently met with Kelly Young and Nancy Waite from my district and Trina Bellak of the Humane Society of the United States about this matter. On a recent trip to a horse auction in New Holland, PA, they described the horrible conditions to which these horses are subjected. One mare was found so ill, she lay trembling on the floor of a trailer. An attendant attempted to rescue it, but, unfortunately, was too late. The mare had to be put down. The tragedy is that had she not found this horse, it would have been thrown into a trailer with dozens of other horses, and most likely would have died from overcrowding.

However, what is even more repugnant is that an individual from New York, an attendant at the auction, has been convicted of violating 150 counts of New York's State law regulating horse transport. He has accumulated fines amounting to \$11,000 and has yet to pay them. Meanwhile, horses continue to be transported in vehicles with ceilings too low for their height. Pregnant mares, new born foals, rambunctious stallions, and injured horses continue to be packed together, often without food or water for days.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation would give the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to ensure that protections are in place to prevent these horrendous practices that occur during the transport of horses for slaughter. This legislation makes no attempt to outlaw the slaughter industry, but rather protect horses from unnecessary pain and suffering.

This bill would require horses to be rested and provided food and water after traveling no longer than 24 hours; vehicles would be required to be in sanitary condition and provide at least 6 feet, 6 inches of headroom; provide adequate ventilation and shelter from extreme heat and cold; be of appropriate size for the number of horses transported; allow for position of horses by size, and separation of stallions; provide for veterinarians to determine if horses are able to withstand stress of transportation.

Several States have passed legislation similar to this bill. However, because this is an interstate industry, it is necessary to have a uniform Federal law. My bill has the full support of the American Horse Council, the American Horse Protection Association, and the Humane Society of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation which is specifically geared toward providing horses adequate protection during transportation for slaughter. I plead with all animal enthusiasts to support this bill.

TIP OF THE HAT TO A 31ST DISTRICT VOLUNTEER

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 1995

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, every so often, a member of our society goes far beyond the normal call of duty, and deserves special recognition. One of my constituents, John Van Wicklin, is such a person.

In November of 1994, John shared with me his vision of holding a weeklong summer camping program for abused and neglected children in rural Allegany County—one of the poorest counties in New York State, if not the Nation. He set up a chapter of the Royal Family Kids' Camp [RFKC], a nonprofit organization founded by Wayne Tesch of Costa Mesa, CA.

The main objectives of RFKC are to provide abused and neglected children (ages 6–12) with a safe haven from the horrors of abuse, a fun-filled week, a host of positive memories and role models, and a context of basic Christian values. His goal was to raise \$11,000 to cover the costs of running the camp. Whatever he couldn't raise, he was prepared to pay out of his own pocket.

John worked directly with Commissioner Joan Sinclair, Ben Fanton and others in the Allegany County Department of Social Services to identify the 28 hardest cases in the county's system. As they identified these children, the hard work of raising the necessary dollars and recruiting volunteers of all different backgrounds and interests began.

Scores of people answered the call by volunteering their time, energy and resources to make John's vision a reality. People from all walks of life pitched in—many community members donated materials; a local medical doctor, Doug Mayhle, took time out of his busy schedule to be a camp counselor; a player from the Buffalo Bills signed autographs and sent a message to each kid; and the faculty, staff, administration and students of Houghton College were a huge help. Also, thanks to many gracious donors, his financial goal was comfortably surpassed.

In the end, everyone's hard work paid off, and the camp was a tremendous success. John sent me a letter in July of 1995, to relay a story from the camp. There are many stories. Each one starts with a young child who was in some way denied part of his or her childhood. Each story ends with a child who was given the chance to be a kid again, in an environment without the terror of being physically, sexually, or mentally abused. Children with dreadful worries—much greater than any child should ever have—were seen laughing and smiling with other children of similar backgrounds, and a group of dedicated adults whom they learned to trust.

John plans to hold another camp in 1996, and increase his budget to accommodate more children. From what I understand, people are already lining up at John's doorstep to get involved.

Mr. Speaker, my hat's off to John Van Wicklin. I hop you and all of my colleagues here in Congress will join me in saluting him and the many friends and volunteers of the Royal Family Kids' Camps around the Nation. Their spirit and dedication are much appreciated.